

# Eligible Applicant Documentation

## Sierra Resource Conservation District, Fresno County

Sierra Resource Conservation District was formed in eastern Fresno County in 1956 as a legal subdivision under the California State Constitution and an eligible applicant for Local Groundwater Assistance (LGA) funds pursuant to the California Water Code (CWC) 10701 (a) as noted:

*(a) As used in this part, "local agency" means any city, county, district, agency, or other political subdivision of the state for the local performance of governmental or proprietary functions within limited boundaries.*

Federal Legislation authorized Resource Conservation Districts (RCD) in 1937 under the Standards Act. California adopted a compatible state provision in 1938 as expressed in Division 9 of the Public Resources Code (PRC) Sections 9001 et seq. These provisions have been amended through the years to reflect changing needs and conditions.

As of 1992, the primary purposes of the Resource Conservation District under Section 9001(a) is to secure "the adoption of conservation practices including but not limited to farm, range, open space, urban development, wildlife, recreation, watershed, water quality, and woodland; to save the basic resources, soil, water, and air of the state from unreasonable and economically preventable waste and destruction."

Under PRC Section 9001(b-1) the District has legal authority to "cooperate with the United States, this State, counties, cities, public districts, other resource conservation districts, persons, associations, and Corporations". Additionally, (b-2) with the consent of the owner, the RCD may construct on privately or publicly owned lands, "necessary works for the prevention and control of soil erosion and erosion stabilizations."

The California Legislature determined that the "construction and maintenance on privately or publicly owned land of works for resource conservation is in the public interest and for the general public benefit", and the expenditure of state, county, city, district or other public funds that are or may become available for planning, designing or implementing the above {such resource conservation works} constitutes an expenditure for the general public benefit. (Section 9002)

The RCD is empowered under both federal and state legislation. Agencies at all levels of government have responsibilities to provide expertise and to otherwise assist and cooperate with the RCD on natural resource projects. This is strengthened by additional inter-agency Memorandums of Understanding. The RCD is to provide local input and leadership and foster interagency cooperation and coordination on natural resource projects on both public and private lands.

Sierra RCD's Official Business Address is:

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# Sierra and Navelencia Resource Conservation District Consolidation LAFCo File No. CD-08-1

